

# On the Commutativity of a Prime $*$ -Ring with a $*$ - $\alpha$ -Derivation

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**Abstract:** Let  $R$  be a prime  $*$ -ring where  $*$  be an involution of  $R$ ,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $R$ ,  $T$  be a nonzero left  $\alpha$ - $*$ -centralizer on  $R$  and  $d$  be a nonzero  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ . The aim of this paper is to prove the commutativity of a  $*$ -ring  $R$  with the followings conditions: *i*) if  $T$  is a homomorphism (or an anti-homomorphism) on  $R$ , *ii*) if  $d([x, y]) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , *iii*) if  $[d(x), y] = [\alpha(x), y]$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , *iv*) if  $d(x) \circ y = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , *v*) if  $d(x \circ y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ .

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $Z(R)$  be the center of  $R$ .  $x, y \in R$  such that  $xy - yx$ ,  $xy + yx$  are denoted by  $[x, y]$  and  $x \circ y$  respectively and the followings are hold for all  $x, y \in R$

- $[x, yz] = [x, y]z + y[x, z]$
- $[xy, z] = [x, z]y + x[y, z]$
- $(xy) \circ z = x(y \circ z) - [x, z]y = (x \circ z)y + x[y, z]$
- $x \circ (yz) = (x \circ y)z - y[x, z] = y(x \circ z) + [x, y]z$ .

$R$  is called a *prime (resp. semiprime) ring* if  $a, b \in R$  such that  $aRb = (0)$  then either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$  (*resp.* If  $aRa = (0)$  then  $a = 0$ ).  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping such that  $(xy)^* = y^*x^*$  and  $(x^*)^* = x$  is called an *involution* and a ring equipped with an involution is called a  *$*$ -ring*. If a  $*$ -ring is prime (*resp.* semiprime) then it is called a *prime (resp. semiprime)  $*$ -ring*.

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An additive mapping  $d$  of  $R$  is called a *derivation* if  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . The authors have been trying to decide that whether a ring is commutative or not with the help of derivation that is defined over the ring. First study was made on this subject by Posner in [4]. Bresar and Vukman in [5] defined a *\*-derivation* on a *\*-ring* as follows: an additive mapping  $d$  of  $R$  is called a derivation if  $d(xy) = d(x)y^* + xd(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Kim and Lee showed that in [2] the ring is commutative using some identities with a *\*-derivation* which is defined on a prime *\*-ring* and semiprime *\*-ring* where  $*$  is an involution. Firstly, inspired by the definition of *\*-derivation*, it is given that  $d$  is a *\*- $\alpha$ -derivation* if  $d(xy) = d(x)y^* + \alpha(x)d(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$  where  $\alpha$  is a homomorphism on  $R$ . Same results are obtained using similar hypothesis in Kim and Lee's paper with *\*- $\alpha$ -derivation* which is defined on a prime *\*-ring* and semiprime *\*-ring* in this study.

In 1957, the *reverse derivation* is defined by Herstein in [6] as follows: the reverse derivation is an additive mapping  $d$  of  $R$  such that  $d(xy) = d(y)x + yd(x)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . After this definition, Breaser and Vukman defined the reverse *\*-derivation* in [5] as follows: the reverse *\*-derivation* is an additive mapping  $d$  of  $R$  such that  $d(xy) = d(y)x^* + yd(x)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Inspired by the definition of reverse *\*-derivation*, it is given that  $d$  is called a *reverse \*- $\alpha$ -derivation* if  $d(xy) = d(y)x^* + \alpha(y)d(x)$  for all  $x, y \in R$  where  $\alpha : R \rightarrow R$  is a homomorphism. Kim and Lee showed in [2] that if  $d$  is a reverse *\*-derivation* of semiprime *\*-ring* then it holds  $[d(x), z] = 0$  for all  $x, z \in R$ . This result is given for reverse *\*- $\alpha$ -derivation* in this study.

Zalar defined in [7] the *left centralizer* (*etc.* right centralizer) as follows: the left centralizer is an additive mapping  $T$  on  $R$  such that  $T(xy) = T(x)y$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Ali and Fosner in [8] defined the left *\*-centralizer* on a *\*-ring* where  $*$  is an involution as follows: a left *\*-centralizer* (*etc.* right *\*-centralizer*) is an additive mapping  $T$  such that  $T(xy) = T(x)y^*$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . In [9], Koç and Gölbaşı said to a *left  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer* (*etc.* right  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer) that  $T$  is an additive mapping such that  $T(xy) = T(x)\alpha(y^*)$  for all  $x, y \in R$  where  $\alpha$  is a homomorphism. Kim et al. proved that in [2] if  $R$  is a semiprime *\*-ring* and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is a left *\*-centralizer* then  $T : R \rightarrow Z(R)$ . Rehman et al showed that in [3] if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free semiprime *\*-ring* and  $T$  is both a Jordan *\*-centralizer* and a homomorphism on  $R$  then  $T : R \rightarrow Z(R)$ . Furthermore, if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free prime *\*-ring* and  $T$  is a nonzero Jordan *\*-centralizer* then  $T = *$ . In the following part of this study, based upon the results are proved by Kim and Lee in [2] and Rehman et al.in [3], if a left



$\alpha$ -\*-centralizer defined over a prime \*-ring where  $\alpha$  is an automorphism, is also a homomorphism (or an anti-homomorphism), then the ring is commutative.

Throughout this paper,  $R$  is a prime or semiprime \*-ring where  $*$  is an involution,  $\alpha : R \rightarrow R$  is an automorphism,  $d$  is a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation of  $R$  and  $T$  is a left  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer on  $R$ .

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## 2. RESULTS

**Lemma 2.1.** [1, Lemma 1.1.4] Suppose that  $R$  is semi-prime and that  $a \in R$  is such that  $a(ax - xa) = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . Then  $a \in Z(R)$ , the center of  $R$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a \*-ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $R$  and  $T$  be a nonzero left  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer on  $R$ .

- i) If  $R$  is semiprime then the mapping  $T$  is  $R$  into  $Z(R)$ .
- ii) If  $R$  is prime and  $T$  is a homomorphism (or an anti-homomorphism) on  $R$ , then  $R$  is commutative.

*Proof.* i) Let  $R$  be semiprime. If it is observed  $T(xz^*y^*)$  for  $x, y, z \in R$ , it is obtained respectively for all  $x, y, z \in R$

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$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} T(xz^*y^*) &= T(x(z^*y^*)) = T(x)\alpha((z^*y^*)^*) = T(x)\alpha(yz) \\ &= T(x)\alpha(y)\alpha(z) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} T(xz^*y^*) &= T((xz^*)y^*) = T(xz^*)\alpha((y^*)^*) = T(x)\alpha((z^*)^*)\alpha(y) \\ &= T(x)\alpha(z)\alpha(y) \end{aligned}$$

Combining the equation (1) and (2), it holds that

$$T(x)[\alpha(y), \alpha(z)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Since  $\alpha$  is onto mapping, replacing  $\alpha(y)$  by  $T(x)$  in last equation, it holds

$$T(x)[T(x), \alpha(z)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Since  $\alpha$  is onto mapping, this means that

$$T(x)[T(x), z] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

From Lemma 2.1, it gets  $T(x) \in Z(R)$  for all  $x \in R$  which means that  $T : R \rightarrow Z(R)$ .

ii) Let  $R$  be prime and  $T$  be a homomorphism of  $R$ . Since  $T$  is a homomorphism, it holds

$$(3) \quad T(xy) = T(x)T(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Also, since  $T$  is a left  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer, it has

$$(4) \quad T(xy) = T(x)\alpha(y^*) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Combining equations (3) and (4) it holds

$$(5) \quad T(x)T(y) = T(x)\alpha(y^*) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $y^*z^*$  where  $z \in R$  in equation (5), it is obtained

$$T(x)T(y^*)\alpha(z) = T(x)\alpha(z)\alpha(y) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

By using (5) it gets

$$T(x)\alpha(y)\alpha(z) = T(x)\alpha(z)\alpha(y) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

And so,

$$T(x)[\alpha(z), \alpha(y)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R$$

is obtained. In the last equation, replacing  $x$  by  $xs^*$  where  $s \in R$  and using that  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping, it gets

$$T(x)R[\alpha(z), \alpha(y)] = (0) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime \*-ring, it implies either  $T = 0$  or  $[\alpha(z), \alpha(y)] = 0$  for all  $y, z \in R$ . Since  $T$  is nonzero, it implies that  $R$  is commutative.

Now let  $R$  be prime and  $T$  be an anti-homomorphism of  $R$ . Since  $T$  is an anti-homomorphism, it gets

$$(6) \quad T(xy) = T(y)T(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Moreover, since  $T$  is a left  $\alpha$ -\*-centralizer, it has

$$(7) \quad T(xy) = T(x)\alpha(y^*) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

If the equations (6) and (7) are considered together and edited, it follows

$$(8) \quad T(y)T(x) = T(x)\alpha(y^*) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $zx^*$  and  $y$  by  $y^*$  where  $z \in R$  in the last equation, it holds

$$T(y^*)T(zx^*) = T(zx^*)\alpha((y^*)^*) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

The last equation is edited by using the equation (8), it follows

$$T(z)[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $zt^*$  where  $t \in R$  in the last equation and using  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping it gets

$$T(z)R[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)] = (0) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime \*-ring, it implies that either  $T = 0$  or  $[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Since  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping and  $T$  is a nonzero mapping, it gets that  $R$  is commutative. □

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a \*-ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $R$  and  $d$  be a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ .*

- i) *If  $R$  is semiprime, then  $d$  is  $R$  into  $Z(R)$ .*
- ii) *If  $R$  is prime and  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $R$ , then  $d = \alpha$ .*
- iii) *If  $R$  is prime and  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism, then  $d = *$ .*

*Proof.*

i) Let  $R$  be semiprime. If it is observed  $d(xy^*z^*)$  for  $x, y, z \in R$  by using that  $d$  is a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation, it is obtained

$$(9) \quad d(xy^*z^*) = d(x(y^*z^*)) = d(x)zy + \alpha(x)d(y^*)z + \alpha(xy^*)d(z^*)$$

and

$$(10) \quad d(xy^*z^*) = d((xy^*)z^*) = d(x)yz + \alpha(x)d(y^*)z + \alpha(xy^*)d(z^*).$$

Combining the equations (9) and (10), it implies

$$d(x)[z, y] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $d(x)$  in last equation, by using the Lemma 2.1 the desired result is obtained.

ii) Let  $R$  be prime and  $d$  be a homomorphism. Since  $d$  is both a homomorphism and a \*- $\alpha$ -derivation, it holds

$$d(xy) = d(x)y^* + \alpha(x)d(y) = d(x)d(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xz$  where  $z \in R$  in the last equation and by using that  $d$  is a homomorphism, it implies for all  $x, y, z \in R$

$$d(x)d(z)y^* + \alpha(x)\alpha(z)d(y) = d(x)d(z)d(y) = d(x)d(z)y$$

is obtained.

$$d(x)d(z)y^* + \alpha(x)\alpha(z)d(y) = d(x)d(z)y^* + d(x)\alpha(z)d(y) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Since  $\alpha$  is onto mapping, it follows

$$(\alpha(x) - d(x))Rd(y) = (0) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime  $*$ -ring and  $d$  is a nonzero mapping, it is obtained that  $d = \alpha$ .

iii) Let  $R$  be prime and  $d$  be an anti-homomorphism. Since  $d$  is both an anti-homomorphism and a  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation,

$$d(xy) = d(x)y^* + \alpha(x)d(y) = d(y)d(x).$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $xy^*$  in last equation and by using that  $d$  is an anti-homomorphism, it follows

$$d(x)yx^* + \alpha(x)d(y^*)d(x) = d(x)yd(x) + \alpha(x)d(y^*)d(x).$$

So, it implies

$$d(x)R(d(x) - x^*) = (0) \text{ for all } x \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is prime  $*$ -ring, it implies that either  $d(x) = x^*$  or  $d(x) = 0$ . We set that  $A = \{x \in R \mid d(x) = x^*\}$  and  $B = \{x \in R \mid d(x) = 0\}$ . Then  $A$  and  $B$  are both additive subgroups of  $R$  and  $R$  is the union  $A$  and  $B$  but a group can not be set union of its two proper subgroups. Hence,  $R$  equals that either  $A$  or  $B$ . Assume that  $B = R$  which means that  $d = 0$  which is a contradiction. So it follows that  $A = R$  which means that  $d = *$ . □

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a prime  $*$ -ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $R$  and  $d$  be a nonzero  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ . If  $d([x, y]) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

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*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xy$  in the hypothesis and by using that  $d$  is a  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation, it holds

$$\alpha([x, y])d(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xs$  where  $s \in R$  in last equation and using that  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping, it hold

$$\alpha([x, y])Rd(y) = (0) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime  $*$ -ring, it implies that either  $\alpha([x, y]) = 0$  or  $d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Since  $d$  is nonzero and  $\alpha$  is onto, it follows that  $R$  is commutative by using the similar method in the proof of (iii) of Theorem 2.3. □

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a prime \*-ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an automorphism and  $d$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation. If  $[d(x), y] = [\alpha(x), y]$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xz$  where  $z \in R$  and by using that  $d$  is a \*- $\alpha$ -derivation, it holds

$$(11) \quad [d(x)z^*, y] + [\alpha(x)d(z), y] = \alpha(x)[\alpha(z), y] + [\alpha(x), y]\alpha(z) \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $\alpha(x)$  in hypothesis, it holds

$$[d(x), \alpha(x)] = 0.$$

Furthermore, replacing  $y$  by  $\alpha(x)$  in (11) and by using that  $[d(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$ , it implies

$$d(x)[z^*, \alpha(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $(zr)^*$  where  $r \in R$  and by using the last equation, it holds

$$d(x)R[r, \alpha(x)] = (0) \text{ for all } x, r \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is prime \*-ring, it implies that either  $d(x) = 0$  or  $[r, \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x, r \in R$ . Since  $d$  is nonzero and  $\alpha$  is onto, it follows that  $R$  is commutative by using the similar method in the proof of (iii) of Theorem 2.3. □

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a prime \*-ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism and  $d$  be a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ . If  $a \in R$  such that  $[d(x), \alpha(a)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$  then  $d(a) = 0$  or  $a \in Z(R)$ .*

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*Proof.* Replacing for  $x$  by  $xy$  where  $y \in R$  in the hypothesis and by using that  $d$  is a \*- $\alpha$ -derivation, it implies

$$d(x)[y^*, \alpha(a)] + [\alpha(x), \alpha(a)]d(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $a$  in the last equation

$$d(a)[y^*, \alpha(a)] = 0 \text{ for all } y \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $(yr)^*$  where  $r \in R$  in the last equation, it implies

$$d(a)R[r, \alpha(a)] = (0) \text{ for all } r \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime \*-ring and  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping, it follows that either  $d(a) = 0$  or  $a \in Z(R)$ . □

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime  $*$ -ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution and  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of  $R$ . If  $d$  is a nonzero reverse  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ , the mapping  $d$  is  $R$  into  $Z(R)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $d$  is a reverse  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation, it holds

$$d(xy) = d(y)x^* + \alpha(y)d(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xz$  and  $y$  by  $zy$  where  $z \in R$  in the last equation respectively, it gets that for all  $x, y, z \in R$

$$(12) \quad d((xz)y) = d(y)z^*x^* + \alpha(y)d(z)x^* + \alpha(y)\alpha(z)d(x).$$

and

$$(13) \quad d(x(zy)) = d(y)z^*x^* + \alpha(y)d(z)x^* + \alpha(z)\alpha(y)d(x).$$

Combining equations (12) and (13), it implies

$$(14) \quad [\alpha(y), \alpha(z)]d(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $yr$  where  $r \in R$  in the last equation, it holds

$$(15) \quad [\alpha(y), \alpha(z)]\alpha(r)d(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z, r \in R.$$

On the other hand, the equation (14) multiplies by  $\alpha(r)$  from right side, it holds

$$(16) \quad [\alpha(y), \alpha(z)]d(x)\alpha(r) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z, r \in R.$$

Combining equations(15) and (16), it implies

$$[\alpha(y), \alpha(z)][\alpha(r), d(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z, r \in R.$$

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Since  $\alpha$  is onto, it holds

$$(17) \quad [y, z][r, d(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z, r \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $r$  and  $z$  by  $d(x)s$  where  $s \in R$  in the last equation and by using the equation (17), it follows

$$[r, d(x)]R[r, d(x)] = (0) \text{ for all } r, x \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a semiprime  $*$ -ring,  $d$  is  $R$  into  $Z(R)$  which means that  $d : R \rightarrow Z(R)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $R$  be a prime  $*$ -ring where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism and  $d$  be a nonzero  $*$ - $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ . If  $d(x) \circ y = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*



*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xz$  where  $z \in R$  in the hypothesis, it holds

$$d(x)[z^*, y] - [\alpha(x), y]d(z) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $\alpha(x)$  in last equation,

$$d(x)[z^*, \alpha(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in R$$

is obtained. Replacing  $z$  by  $(rz)^*$  where  $r \in R$  in the last equation and by using  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping with the last equation, it gets

$$d(x)R[z, \alpha(x)] = (0) \text{ for all } x, z \in R.$$

Since  $R$  is a prime \*-ring, it follows that either  $d(x) = 0$  or  $[z, \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $z, x \in R$ . Since  $d$  is nonzero and  $\alpha$  is onto, it follows that  $R$  is commutative by using the similar method in the proof of (iii) of Theorem 2.3. □

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $R$  be a prime \*-ring, where  $*$  :  $R \rightarrow R$  be an involution,  $\alpha$  be an automorphism and  $d$  be a nonzero \*- $\alpha$ -derivation on  $R$ . If  $d(x \circ y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xy$  in hypothesis, it holds

$$d((x \circ y)y) = \alpha(x \circ y)d(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$

Furthermore replacing  $x$  by  $xz$  where  $z \in R$  in the last equation and by using that  $\alpha$  is an onto mapping

$$\alpha([x, y])Rd(y) = (0) \text{ for all } x, y \in R$$

is obtained. Since  $R$  is a prime \*-ring, it implies that either  $\alpha([x, y]) = 0$  or  $d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Since  $d$  is nonzero and  $\alpha$  is onto, it follows that  $R$  is commutative by using the similar method in the proof of (iii) of Theorem 2.3. □

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